

Two downy young taken by Mr. John Schaler from the same nest at Rock Lake, on July 17, have an interrupted black bar across the breast, black at the base of the mandible, and the entire upper parts mottled with black, but while the ground color of one is pure white, that of the other is pale ochraceous-buff, becoming white only in the center of the abdomen. This difference may be one of sex, or, taken in connection with the ochraceous females mentioned, connect *senetti* with *henryi*.

Wherever we went about the prairies we found this bird a rather common summer resident, especially in the neighborhood of water. It arrives the last week in May, and begins laying about the twentieth of June. The pale colors of the male protect him admirably, harmonizing with the dull gray of the fences and rocks, perched on which he passes the day, while the darker colors of the female render her less conspicuous when seated over her eggs on the black soil. Six eggs in my collection from Towner County average 1.67 in. in length by .88 in. in breadth, and are perhaps a trifle paler with somewhat smaller markings than eggs of *virginianus*.

Average measurement (with extremes) of thirteen specimens (10 ♂, 3 ♀): length, 9.53 (9.25-9.81); wing, 7.61 (7.08-7.87); tail, 4.68 (4.53-4.79).

AN APPARENTLY NEW *CHORDEILES* FROM COSTA RICA.

BY GEO. K. CHERRIE.

It is with much hesitation that I present the following as characterizing a new Nighthawk of the *C. virginianus* group,—that is, the species or subspecies in which the white wing-patch is posterior to the tips of the secondaries.

Chordeiles virginianus aserriensis,¹ subsp. nov.

Type, No. 4261, collection Geo. K. Cherrie, San José, Costa Rica, Nov. 2, 1893. Smaller and much lighter colored (both above and below) than the true *virginianus*. Above, grayish predominating; decidedly dusky in center of back where feathers are mostly blackish basally, tipped and edged with grayish and crossed by irregular broken subterminal bands of the same color. Scapulars blackish basally, the edges with grayish mottlings and buffy blotches. Wing-coverts grayish, finely mottled with dusky. Below, upper breast grayish irregularly barred with narrow blackish bands. Lower breast, sides and flanks lightly buffy whitish regularly barred with blackish, the white and black bands being of about equal width. Center of abdomen immaculate white; under tail-coverts slightly buffy, the longer ones showing imperfect blackish bands.

Length (skin), 8.40; wing, 6.96; tail, 4.40.

This bird agrees with *C. v. chapmani* in size and in the white unmarked abdomen,² but differs greatly in color above, as it does from a large series of *virginianus* and from examples of *virginianus henryi* with which it has been compared.

The type is a male bird, but the tail does not show the broad white band near the tip found in the males of other species of *Chordeiles*, but has exactly the same tail as the females.

Whether this be constant or not, or whether in the male possessing a tail marked like that of the female it is a character of immaturity, I am not in a position to state with certainty. One of the specimens received for examination from the National Museum³ (No. 128,373, U. S. N. M., Escondido River, Nic., Oct. 28, 1892, Chas. W. Richmond) apparently pertains to this new race. It is a male and has the tail markings similar to those of the type. However, in this example the terminal white band on the third pair of rectrices, from the outside, is wider than on the other feathers. In this specimen the general color above is considerably darker than in the type, approaching much nearer to *C. virginianus* proper.

¹ From the valley of the River Aserri, San José, C. R.

² Comparison is made with the type of *chapmani*, recently acquired by the Field Museum as a donation from Prof. C. B. Cory.

³ I am indebted to the authorities of the Smithsonian Institution and to those of the American Museum of Natural History for the loan of specimens used in the preparation of this paper.